

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

Sense of the Senate
Resolution on Intellectual Property

04-16/17-EX – November 1, 2016

WHEREAS: In May of 2016, the University Senate passed the Resolution on University Intellectual Property Policy (24-15/16-FAC), which was intended to replace the P09-03: University Intellectual Property Policy, approved by the Academic Senate in April 2009; and

WHEREAS: President Rossbacher did not approve 24-15/16-FAC – noting that she had been directed by the Chancellor’s Office that “all campuses have been asked to refrain from revising or enacting new policies regarding intellectual property while a system-wide policy on this topic is developed. The system-wide policy has been drafted and is undergoing the standard review process.” (13 September 2016 memo addressed to Chair Alderson and Provost Enyedi); and

WHEREAS: The University Senate subsequently passed Sense of the Senate Resolution 02-16/17-Abell/Thobaben, Resolution Demanding President Rossbacher Approve the University Senate Recommended Intellectual Property Policy for HSU; be it

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Humboldt State University strongly supports the resolution of this issue as quickly as possible, thereby protecting Intellectual Property rights on campus; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Senate recommends that HSU faculty, staff, and students prepare written agreements with their department chair, Dean, and Provost for any and all work or contracts that involve the potential transfer of intellectual property rights, and that they be cautious about entering into any such agreements, given the overall uncertainty regarding the state of IP policy on campus; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the University Senate will hold accountable administrators at both the local and system-wide level for the resolution of this issue in an effort to protect these rights.

RATIONALE: The protection of Intellectual Property rights is of central concern to the HSU community. As per both the 2009 and proposed 2016 Intellectual Property Policies, such protections support academic freedom, as well as our desire for equity and fair play, mutual trust and goodwill on campus. Confusion around the current state of IP is unsustainable. We must resolve concerns around this issue immediately.